

SOME PLANTS ABOUT WILLIAMSTOWN.

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It is less than one hundred and fifty miles by rail from Boston, on the coast, to Williamstown, in the extreme northwest corner of the little State of Massachusetts; yet in this short distance, so much tempered is the harshness of our east wind, so elevated and diversified becomes the country as one goes west, with perhaps other differences of soil and climate, that a considerable change in the flora of the two places is soon discovered. Indeed, a botanist may well be surprised at the number of plants in the woods and meadows of the Hoosac Mountains which are rarely or never found near Boston. In the course of two short visits at Williamstown, in early June and in August, 1898, I collected many such plants, including some which I believe are also new or rare in Massachusetts, and some little account of these may be worth putting on record.

Centaurea Jacea, L., is mentioned as a rare plant in Gray's Manual and in the Illustrated Flora of Britton and Brown, and in neither is it credited to Massachusetts. A single large patch grew by the side of the Pownal road near the Sand Springs, where I obtained fine specimens in August. With its long fimbriate sterile ray flowers and large heads, it is a more conspicuous and attractive plant than *C. nigra*, which is common about Boston and elsewhere; and I found that the patch was as much admired and "collected" by the ladies and children in the neighborhood for merely ornamental purposes as by myself for the equally ornamental and more lasting uses of the herbarium. It is curious to find that, according to Anne Pratt's Flowering Plants of Great Britain, *C. Jacea* is of very rare occurrence in England, and it is not mentioned in Hooker's Student's Flora of the British Islands.

Along the lower bare steep slopes of Northwest Hill, near the Hoosac River, I found *Calamintha Acinos*, Clairv. growing abundantly. There is no mention of this species in the Synoptical Flora or in Gray's Manual. In the Illustrated Flora, III, 109, as *Clino-podium Acinos* (L.) Kuntze, it is said to be found "in waste places in New York and New Jersey," and there are specimens in the Gray Herbarium from Ithaca, N. Y., and from Toronto, Canada. The plant in the field has much the appearance of Pennyroyal, but it is a strag-

gling vine with little pungent odor, and the bright pink flowers are larger. I thought at first I had found a long-sought plant, *Isanthus cæruleus*, but that pleasure was reserved until a day or two later, when, in a stubble field near by, I came upon the little stranger growing there in profusion. It was my first introduction to *Isanthus*, which is not definitely located in Massachusetts in the Manual, the Synoptical Flora, or the Illustrated Flora, and it does not appear in our local lists.

Two other mints, close relatives and neighbors in the manuals, I also found near each other in North Adams, near Williamstown. I had never seen *Thymus serpyllum*, L., and *Origanum vulgare*, L., before, but the chief interest, withal, was in the association of these old English plants with Shakespeare and the English classics. The Thyme grew in an open meadow at the base of Greylock Mountain, not far from the beginning of the carriage road which leads from the Notch road to the summit; and, as if scrupulously mindful of the habitat assigned to it in Oberon's pretty line,

"I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,"

it was dutifully growing in round patches, each no larger than a dinner plate, upon a low bank which sloped steeply down to a swale. It was a warm midsummer day, the plant was in full flower, and the bees which swarmed about it evidently shared with me the enjoyment of its beauty and fragrance, but not the charm of its novelty. To *them*, I suppose, *Thymus serpyllum* was an old story.

The Marjoram grew scatteringly along woody roadsides, but I found it also in Williamstown, and most abundantly in a limestone quarry in Pownal, over the border in Vermont.

In the same meadow with the Thyme, I collected *Galium boreale*, L., in fruit, *G. Mollugo*, L., in flower, *Dianthus deltoides*, L., and, in a wet place, *Epilobium strictum*, Muhl.

An immigrant from the Rocky Mountains, which has hardly yet reached Boston, but which is already abundant as a weed along roadsides at Williamstown, is *Matricaria discoidea*, DC., appearing curiously like our Mayweed (*Anthemis Cotula*, L.), but scentless when fresh and without rays.

The Agrimonies, as recently revised by Mr. E. P. Bicknell (Bull. Torr. Club, 23: 509), presented another example of the difference in the flora here and at the eastern end of the state. I found that *A.*

Brittoniana, Bicknell, was the prevailing form, everywhere taking the place of *A. Eupatoria*, L., var. *hirsuta*, Muhl. (*A. hirsuta*, Bicknell), which is the form common about Boston.

So in *Sanicula*, where again Mr. Bicknell has so satisfactorily cleared up the obscurity among our four species. *S. Marylandica*, L., *S. gregaria*, Bicknell, and *S. trifoliata*, Bicknell, I found in their appropriate habitats, relatively abundant, in the order named. While the first is equally common at Boston, *S. gregaria* is certainly rare, and *S. trifoliata* is probably not found east of the Connecticut River.

On a wet wooded bank above Broad Brook, at "White Oaks," in Williamstown, I collected *Cypripedium pubescens*, Willd., and *C. parviflorum*, Salisb. (with specimens quite intermediate between the two), and *C. spectabile*, Salisb., which flowered in June between the dates of my visits.

In the "Hopper," the great ravine in the west side of Mount Greylock, were growing *Orchis spectabilis*, L., the early *Spiranthes latifolia*, Torr., *Liparis liliifolia*, Richard, and *Uvularia grandiflora*, Smith. Hidden in dark places, I found the fragrant, pretty, and delicate "Squirrel Corn," *Dicentra Canadensis*, DC.; and later, in August, *Goodyera repens*, R. Br., was abundant under the great spruces which happily still cover much of the mountain sides. Let us hope that the commissioners in charge of the new Greylock Reservation, which now includes this primeval forest, will appreciate the rarity in Massachusetts of such woods, will preserve them in their ancient and natural beauty, and never sacrifice them to those methods, so prevalent near Boston, which substitute the landscape garden for the forest; foreign trees for our native species; and graveled walks, with granite retaining walls, for the rocks and wild woodland paths.

August 14, the last day of my stay, I was able to get flowering specimens of *Conioselinum Canadense*, T. & G., from the White Oaks swamp, where I had detected its foliage early in June.

There were other noteworthy plants, and, especially, many interesting grasses and sedges, but they must be deferred. The "Sand Springs" in Williamstown, where I tarried, is in the midst of a most beautiful section of New England, and of a most happy hunting-ground for the botanist.